Weymouth. Nov 14. 1865

My Dear Mr May,

I received your letter of Nov 11. last night & hasten to make answer for my sisters & myself. Thank you for your kind expression of opinion in regard to our Anti Slavery labours. For one I am very thankful to have done all I did & only wish the work had been less imperfect. I was so little qualified either by taste temperament or education for philanthropic work generally that in looking back on my Anti Slavery life, my Calvinistic notions always come in play, & I invariably feel as if I had been authoritatively summoned into the one vineyard where I could usefully work. Through the whole of it I was blessed with that strong conviction which is in itself light & strength. I have had all sorts of doubts & questionings about almost every thing else, but about the Cause or the way of carrying it forward, I never knew a doubt. But I did not mean to write ~~to write~~ all this. What I do wish is as plainly as I can to give you my view of the present situation.

Is the Mass. A. S. Society to stop, to dissolve next January? If it be not, I dont care a sixpence whether the debts are all paid off or not. Why are you solicitous that the Society be not in debt this year more than any other? What the Society should do next Jan. is to dissolve, thanking God that its work is done, & appointing its present Board of Managers to settle up all its affairs, & raise money enough

to pay off all its debts. Then my
sisters & I will joyfully give all
we can afford & do all in our
power that the dear old Society that
has done so much should finish its
course with credit & honour. But
if next winter, Messrs Phillips &
Whipple & Foster & Pillsbury & Mrs
Foster & Mrs Nowell & their followers, should think
the Society was never more needed
& propose to continue their labours
ad infinitum, it seems to me
that we should be acting unwisely
to put the machinery into their
hands in such condition that they
might do mischief a year longer
& finally end in a childish & dis-
creditable way. I gave last
autumn to the Festival against
my own convictions somewhat, but
with the hope that the American
Society would come to a stop & the
Standard with it in May. There
was very much in the paper, particularly
as regarded Lincoln that I did not like,

but there was so much that was good that I put up with all, trusting that the Society could not be so foolish as it appeared they were. It was a great mistake at the Annual Meeting that the vote by which the question of Dissolution was tried was not taken in a perfectly authentic & careful manner so that it might be seen just how much weight the vote carried with it but I was just as sure before the event as I am now, that the people in favour of continuance meant that this should not be done, & they succeeded as people very often do when behaving trickily in their intercourse with more high minded people than themselves.

Again, my wish has been this the whole year, to stop the whole machinery as far as possible, & to have our existence & action purely nominal. I opposed the holding a May Convention. I opposed the celebration of the 1st of August. How did both these affairs turn out? You were very

much aggrieved at the way Mrs
Foster & others behaved about the meeting
money on that occasion; my Dear
Brother May, it would have been
better if there had been no money
to be aggrieved about. I think
these people take advantage
of your generosity & high minded-
ness. If I were you, I should not be
troubling myself to raise money
for them to spend. To my mind the
case lies in a nut shell. If the
Society dissolve next winter, let
the Board of Managers see to it
the debts paid — otherwise, I should
give myself no particular trouble
about them. I think it a pity that
the American Society was left
with $2000 in its hands to
throw away. I repeat that I see
no reason why you should be working
very hard to raise money to
enable other people to make perfect
fools of themselves by carrying on

an A. S. Society after slavery is abolished. I see that the Penn Society are as foolish as the American, & this makes me think that a sufficient number of wrong headed people may be found to continue the Mass Soc'y but I do not feel at liberty to make the way of folly easy by my assistance, nor would I were I in your place.

Pray do not think that I would not pay off every thing if the money naturally fell into the Treasury & that I should not diminish every expense, but I repeat that I do not see why, if the Society is to continue, any *special* attempt should be made to pay off the debts now, more than in previous years; I do not see why you should labour to have that Messrs Phillips & Pillsbury & the rest should find the Society as a machine completely prepared to carry forward any political plans or theories to which they may feel drawn.

If I misapprehend the case in any way, pray write & tell me your mind & set me right. No creature in the world can estimate your unmeasured labours & sacrifices in the cause more truly than I do as I am sure there no one has known them better. I feel how much & how kindly you have helped me personally & I feel as a friend no less than an Abolitionist with the most earnest desire to aid you in any plan that my judgment really approves. Some time when you are in town, pray come to Weymouth & see us. You come ever down for a night very easily

With love to Mrs May &
Adeline,

Believe me
very truly & affectionately
yours
Anne Weston.

Read & Approved.
E. Q.

E. Q. changed his mind when the
real facts were recalled to his mind